



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/511,263	03/25/2005	Walter Prendin	260076US6XPCT	4298

22850 7590 06/26/2007
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
1940 DUKE STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

BOMAR, THOMAS S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3672

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
-------------------	---------------

06/26/2007

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

patentdocket@oblon.com
oblonpat@oblon.com
jgardner@oblon.com

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/511,263	Applicant(s) PRENDIN ET AL.	
	Examiner Jennifer H. Gay	Art Unit 3672	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 May 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 27-52 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 27-52 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/19/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant has argued the Election/Restriction mailed on April 30th, 2007. After a further review of the claims in the instant application, the examiner has agreed with applicant and withdrawn the Restriction Requirement. All claims have been examined below.

Priority

2. It is noted that the subject matter of the current claims is not fully disclosed in the MI2002A002331 priority document filed on April 22nd, 2002 and thus applicant is not given the benefit of the earlier filing date for the subject matter not disclosed, i.e. the active and passive vehicles.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

4. Claims 27-52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being clearly anticipated by GB 2370590 A (referred to hereafter as Head et al.).

Regarding claims 27, 37-41: Head et al. discloses a telemetry system for the bi-directional communication of data between a well point (1) and a surface terminal unit (page 9 line 26-28), which can be used inside drilling or production strings, comprising:

- Data transmission and optional reception devices;
- A passive vehicle (133), moved by means of a deploying cable and a suitable unwinding device, consisting of
 - A winch (20; see fig.8/9) of the line to be unwound or pulled;
 - Means for supplying electric energy to said vehicle (see page 11 line 7-9);
 - Electronic control and communication devices;

- Anchoring devices (140) for guaranteeing safe stoppage inside the pipe. the vehicle being connected, by means of a detachable deploying cable (146) and a hooking/unhooking device (142), to a suitable winding/unwinding device (145), which can be situated inside the possible garage or outside the string;
- A connection line (130), containing electric conductors, of the transmission and optional reception devices between a well point and its corresponding point situated inside the vehicle or on the surface.

Regarding claim 28: For drill strings the well point is the well bottom.

Regarding claim 29: The system further includes a garage (Figure 18) configured to house the active vehicle or to house the passive vehicle together with the winding/unwinding device, which allows free circulation of sludge and contemporaneous protection of the vehicle.

Regarding claim 30: The connection line connects the transmission and optional reception devices between a well bottom and its corresponding point inside the vehicle.

Regarding claim 31: The connection between the corresponding well point, situated inside the vehicle, and the surface terminal unit is affected by an RF (radio-frequency), or acoustic, or optical system.

Regarding claim 32: The connection between the corresponding well point, situated inside the vehicle, and the surface terminal unit is affected by wiping contacts.

Regarding claim 33: The connecting line connects the transmission and optional reception devices between a well point and its corresponding point situated on the surface.

Regarding claim 34: Head et al. further discloses an active vehicle (50), capable of moving inside pipes for unwinding and pulling a connection line (see fig.6) containing electric conductors which allow transmission and optional reception of data, consisting of:

- A winch (see fig.8, 9) of the line to be unwound or pulled;
- A head connector;
- Means for supplying electric energy to said vehicle (see column 3 line 41);
- Electronic control and communication devices (see page 11 line 7-9);
- Locomotion devices (see fig.6) for the movement inside the pipe;
- Anchoring devices (see fig.7) for guaranteeing safe stoppage inside the pipe.

Regarding claim 35: The locomotion devices include a motor, gears, and at least one wheel that presses against an internal surface of the pipe and is forced by a spring.

Regarding claim 36: The vehicle is equipped with plural automation levels, ranging from purely tele-operated to completely autonomous.

Regarding claims 42-46: Figure 18 of Head et al. discloses the garage.

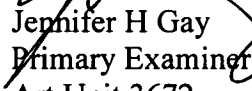
Regarding claims 47-52: Head et al. discloses using the above-described apparatus for inserting and removing drilling string from the wellbore.


Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jennifer H. Gay whose telephone number is (571) 272-7029. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon., Tues., Thurs., and Fri. from 8am to 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bagnell can be reached on (571) 272-6999. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Jennifer H Gay
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3672

JHG 
6/15/07